

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Hy Capacity Engineering Mfg

Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Hy Capacity Grows by Getting Smarter

Client Profile:

Hy-Capacity is a manufacturer and distributor of tractor, combine, and other agricultural parts. Located in Humboldt, Iowa, the company employs 125 people. Hy-Capacity, working through dealers and distributors, manufactures approximately 10,000 parts and distributes about 30,000 parts.

Situation:

Hy-Capacity knew that in order to compete in the global market and succeed in its present business environment, it would need to manufacture quality products more efficiently and increase production. Aware that Lean manufacturing was a vehicle to get that added production, Hy-Capacity contacted the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership (IMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

Hy-Capacity was introduced to lean concepts by training offered through the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Iowa Central Community College. IMEP representative, Brenda Martin, helped Hy-Capacity learn how to eliminate waste by mobilizing a hidden resource, the expertise of their own employees. All Hy-Capacity's employees went through Lean 101 sessions. Additionally its managers underwent training concerning the process of "empowering" employees.

Results:

- * Increased number of employees from 85 to 125.
- * Increased production by 100 percent.
- * Reduced space from 75 percent to 100 percent.
- * Increased efficiency of production.
- * Increased employee satisfaction.
- * Increased sales expected to continue in 2004.

Testimonial:

"The results of the assorted Lean teams in terms of productivity were startling. They've increased their output by 100 percent; we've reduced their space by anywhere from 75 to 100 percent. The efficiency has been incredible. Not only have goals been met, they have been exceeded."

Cindy Danielson, General Manager